A/AC.172/1990/CRP.9/Add.15
27 August 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
1990 substantive session
20-29 August 1990
Agenda item 10*

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Draft report of the Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Maria ROTHEISER (Austria)

VIII. REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997: CONFERENCE AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Introduction and overview

1. In paragraph 6 of section II of its resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination 1/ on the calendar of consultations on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/43/329/Add.1). At its 300th meeting, on 24 August 1989, the Committee on Conferences reviewed an outline of the chapter of the plan governing conference and library services and decided to hold meetings early in 1990 in order to consider the proposed medium-term plan for conference and library services in its final draft form.

2. At the Committee's organizational session, from 9 to 12 February 1990, the Committee was informed that the draft chapter of the plan as contained in A/AC.172/1990/CRP.1 was still under discussion by the Secretariat review bodies, and as such the Committee deferred its formal consideration of the item until its substantive session in August 1990, although some representatives offered comments informally.

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* A/AC.172/132/Add.1.

3. The draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 was issued in document A/45/36 (Prog. 39). In accordance with resolution 43/219, and pursuant to earlier decisions of the Committee, that document was placed before the Committee at its 321st meeting, on 27 August 1990.

Discussion

4. The Secretariat informed the Committee that document A/45/6 (Prog. 39) was the final text of the proposal of the Secretary-General for that programme, which would be presented to the General Assembly. The outcome of the Committee's consideration would form part of the conclusions and decisions in its report to the Assembly, so that the Assembly, in its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals, would be able to take into consideration the views of the Committee.

5. Members of the Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the plan, and that most of the suggestions that had been expressed by members of the Committee previously had been incorporated into the proposal of the Secretary-General.

6. Some members of the Committee requested and received clarification on portions of the plan and suggested that some revisions be formally presented to the Assembly. With regard to paragraph 39.11 on the emphasis upon the application of technological innovations, one delegation did not wish to endorse expenditures for the use of optical disc technology for storage, retrieval and transmission of documentation in the absence of an indication of savings. Another delegation drew attention to earlier decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter, and to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, major programme IX. Conference Services, programme 39, Conference and library services, as contained in A/45/6 (Prog. 39)

8. The Committee expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Secretariat for its work throughout the consultative process on the medium-term plan.

9. The Committee suggested the following rewording for two paragraphs of A/45/6 (Prog. 39):

(a) Paragraph 39.49, the last sentence would read as follows:

"Particular attention will be paid to making the publishing programme more effective and economical and to attracting as wide a readership as possible."

(b) Paragraph 39.59 (g) would read as follows:

"A coherent long-term programme of technological innovation will be carried out to store, retrieve and disseminate United Nations information, and to improve the management and economies of library procedures;"

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16), part two, paras. 67-73.

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